be processed after the IPP produces an in-principle clearance from the Ministry of Power and the company clears or agrees to clear the exploration charges to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

iii) Koslu: A proposal of M/s. R.K. Electropower, duly supported by the Government of Rajasthan has been received for allotment of Koslu lignite block for seeking prospecting licence over an area of 25 Sq. Kms. in Koslu village, Barmer district of Rajasthan. The projects sponsor proposes to undertake a pilot operation for underground gasification of lignite for setting up of a power station. The proposal will be decided on the merits of the case.

iv) Sonari: M/s. RSMDC proposes to mine Sonari lignite block in Tehsil-Shiv, District-Barmer, Rajasthan for a proposed thermal power station. The project sponsor has been requested to obtain the clearance of Ministry of Power to their proposal.

Irregularities in coal linkage

†1388. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases regarding irregularities in coal linkage have come to light;

(b) if so, the total number of such companies whose permission has been cancelled; and

(c) whether any case has also been registered against any of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that in some instances it has been observe that terms and conditions under which linkage was granted to non-core sector linked consumers were not fully observed by such linked consumers.

SCCL has reported that there have been no cases of irregularities in coal linkages.

(b) After investigation done by different investigating agencies, 1042 units have been identified having adverse report against them and, therefore, coal'supply has been stopped to these units.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Some of such units whose supplies have been stopped sought for legal redressal is offered by coal companies.

Awarding contracts without tenders

†1389. SHRI RK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's coal companies have a system of awarding contracts without tenders;

(b) if so, the extent to which officers of different levels have been authorised to do so;

(c) if so, whether complaints of bungling in such cases have ever been reported; and

(d) the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) In the Central Government Coal Companies, normally, no contracts are awarded without tenders except under exigencies of work within delegation of powers. The levels of authorised officers are as under:—

Coal India Limited (CIL)

Purchase contracts	Chairmar I, CIL	Chairman-cum Managing Director of subsidiary companies	Director of subsidiary companies
Without calling for tenders			
a) Purchase of proprietary items from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)	Upto Rs. 3 (Three) crores	Upto Rs. 2 (two) crores	—
b) Without tender through negotiation	Upto Rs. 20 lakhs (reasons to be recorded)	Upto Rs. 20 lakhs (reasons to be recorded)	Upto Rs. 2 lakhs (in emergency)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.